

Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research



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Dr. Lifson is a Senior Principal Scientist and the Director of the AIDS and Cancer Virus Program at the Frederick National Laboratory. He received his M.D. from Northwestern University Medical School then pursued residency and research fellowship training in the Department of Pathology at the Stanford University School of Medicine. He became involved in AIDS-related research in 1983, playing a key role in early efforts to prevent transfusion-mediated transmission of AIDS through laboratory testing, while also conducting basic in vitro studies of AIDS pathogenesis. After several years of continuing research in AIDS pathogenesis while working in the biotechnology industry, where he pioneered the development of sensitive quantitative nucleic acid based methods for measuring HIV replication ("viral load" assays), Dr. Lifson moved to the Frederick National Laboratory in 1995. His work there has focused on the continuing development and application of quantitative virological and immunological methods for understanding retroviral pathogenesis and evaluating approaches for the prevention and treatment of AIDS virus infection, including in nonhuman primate models. The author of more than 360 scientific publications, Dr. Lifson is a nationally recognized authority in these areas.